

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) A hybrid electric vehicle comprising:
an internal combustion engine;
a plurality of sealed nickel-metal hydride storage cells, each of the storage cells
comprising~~having~~:
a positive electrode comprising ~~containing~~ nickel as a positive electrode active material;
a negative electrode comprising ~~containing~~ a hydrogen-absorbing alloy as a negative electrode active material, the negative electrode having a theoretical capacity larger than a theoretical capacity of the positive electrode so as to provide a charge reserve capacity when the positive electrode is in a fully charged state and to provide a discharge reserve capacity when the positive electrode is in a fully discharged state, a ratio of the charge reserve capacity to the discharge reserve capacity ranging from 1 : 0 to 1 : 0.5;
a separator interposed between the positive electrode and the negative electrode; and
an electrolyte immersing therein the positive electrode and the negative electrode; [[.]]
a generator driven by the engine to generate electricity for charging the storage cells;
and
a controller that controls the engine and the generator to recharge the storage cells.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Currently amended) A hybrid electric vehicle according to Claim 3 [[4]], further comprising a charge state detecting unit that detects states of charge of the respective storage cells,

wherein the controller controls the engine and the generator in such a manner as to keep an average value of the states of charge of the storage cells at 55% or higher.

6. (Currently amended) A hybrid electric vehicle according to Claim 3 [[4]], further comprising a voltage sensor to detect terminal voltages of the respective storage cells, wherein the controller controls the engine and the generator in such a manner as to keep the terminal voltages of the storage cells at 1.15 V or larger.

7. (Original) A hybrid electric vehicle according to Claim 3, wherein the storage cells are overcharged to substantially equal states during initial charge.

8. (Currently Amended) A hybrid electric vehicle, comprising:
an internal combustion engine;
a battery module comprising having a plurality of nickel-metal hydride storage cells, each of the storage cells comprising having positive and negative electrodes comprising containing nickel and hydrogen-absorbing alloy, respectively, as electrochemically active materials, a separator disposed between the positive and negative electrodes and an electrolyte immersing therein the positive and negative electrode, the negative electrode having a theoretical capacity larger than a theoretical capacity of the positive electrode so as to provide a charge reserve capacity when the positive electrode is in a fully charged state and to provide a discharge reserve capacity when the positive electrode is in a fully discharged state, the discharge reserve capacity being smaller than charge reserve capacity;
a generator driven by the engine to recharge the storage cells;
means for detecting states of charge of the respective storage cells; and
means for controlling the engine and the generator to keep an average of the states of charge of the storage cells at a given value or higher.

9. (Original) A hybrid electric vehicle according to Claim 8, wherein the given value is 55%.

10. (Original) A hybrid electric vehicle according to Claim 8, further comprising means for detecting voltages of the respective storage cells,

wherein the controller controls the engine and the generator to keep the voltages of the respective storage cells at a discharge voltage limit or higher.

11. (Original) A hybrid electric vehicle according to Claim 10, wherein the discharge voltage limit is 1.15 V.

12. (Original) A hybrid electric vehicle according to Claim 8, wherein the storage cells are overcharged during initial charge.

13. (Original) A hybrid electric vehicle according to Claim 12, further comprising means for approximately equalizing the states of charge of the storage cells during initial charge.